

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10-30 and 32-35 are active. Claims 14-19, 21 and 23-30 were objected to, but not rejected. Independent claim 10 has been amended to include limitations from at least one of the non-rejected claims 14-19. Claim 31 has been cancelled as redundant and its dependents transferred to claim 1. No new matter has been added. The Applicants respectfully request that this after-final Amendment be entered by the Examiner to place this application in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal. The proposed amendment does not raise new issues or necessitate a new search by the Examiner, since the amendment is based on elements earlier claimed or inherent in the previously examined claims. Entry of this Amendment would also permit the Applicants to respond to the Examiner's remarks and arguments raised in the final rejection. The Applicants thank Examiner Li for withdrawing the anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Hardy, et al. and the rejection imposed under §112. The remaining obviousness rejection, also based on Hardy, et al., is moot in view of the amendments above.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 10-13, 20 and 22-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Hardy, et al., Virol. 217:252, and Kitamoto, et al., J. Clin. Micro. 40:2459. This rejection is moot in view of the incorporation of at least one limitation of a non-rejected claim 14-19. Therefore, this rejection can no longer be sustained.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks above, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. Cunningham", is written over a horizontal line.

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